

Pipeline...pipeline having an inside diameter of 8 inches or less



Pipeline installation and watering facility for livestock, photo courtesy USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service

Purpose

The purpose of this practice is to convey water from a source of supply to points of use for livestock, wildlife, and recreation.

Benefits

A single water source can provide livestock water to several locations and can be very effective in improving management of a grazing unit. In addition, pipelines can provide or distribute drinking water facilities for recreational use and for wildlife benefits.

Applications

This practice is applicable where it is desirable or necessary to convey water in a closed conduit from one point to another.

Design and Installation

The capacity of the pipeline should be based on the desired purpose of the practice and the necessary quantity of water supply. In addition, pipeline design should incorporate the pipe's ability to withstand both internal and external pressure. An engineer should be consulted to design the pipeline and determine the need and placement of any valves, vents, or joints.

After installation is complete, it is important to establish vegetation on any disturbed areas as soon as possible to protect the site from soil erosion.

Maintenance

Maintenance considerations for this practice include protecting pipeline from damage by farm equipment, vehicles, freezing conditions, or livestock.

Mark pipeline locations in areas where potential damage could occur by other activities, and record on a map the location and approximate depth of the pipeline for future reference.

In addition, pipelines should be checked regularly to ensure the needed volume of water is being supplied at the designed pressure and to observe any leaks or improper operation. Any damage should be repaired as soon as possible.

Any eroded areas near the pipeline that pose a hazard should be repaired. Reestablish vegetative cover immediately where erosion has occurred.

Relative Cost

Installation low ● ● ● ○ ○ high

Maintenance low ● ○ ○ ○ ○ high

For Additional Information...

Visit the Minnesota NRCS office online at <http://www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov/>, see the Minnesota Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) Standard for (516) Pipeline, or contact your local USDA-NRCS office.

Local USDA-NRCS contact information